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SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 2nd MEETING

Chairman: Mr. KUKAN (Slovakia)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.20 a.m.

EXPRESSION OF SYMPATHY IN CONNECTION WITH THE RECENT EARTHQUAKE IN INDIA

1. The CHAIRMAN, on behalf of all the members of the Committee, extended his sympathy to the Government and people of India in connection with the devastating earthquake that had recently struck that country.

2. Ms. MANIMEKALAI (India) thanked the Chairman for the expression of sympathy.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

3. The CHAIRMAN said that the Group of Western European and other States had proposed Mr. van der Heijden (Netherlands), and the Asian Group of States had proposed Ms. Al-Hamami (Yemen) for the offices of Vice-Chairmen.

4. Mr. van der Heijden (Netherlands) and Ms. Al-Hamami (Yemen) were elected Vice-Chairmen by acclamation.

5. The CHAIRMAN said that Ms. de Maldonado (Guatemala) had been proposed by the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States for the office of Rapporteur.

6. Ms. de Maldonado (Guatemala) was elected Rapporteur by acclamation.

STATEMENT BY THE UNDER-SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF POLICY COORDINATION AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

7. Mr. DESAI (Under-Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development) pointed out that with the end of the cold war and changing perceptions of relationships between nations, international cooperation to improve the human condition and stem the tide of violence and hatred had never been so necessary or so potentially useful, especially in the economic and social spheres. The efforts to achieve peace and security, economic and social progress, protection of human rights and democracy must proceed on a parallel course if development was to succeed in the long term. The World Conference on Human Rights had recognized that the right to development was a fundamental human right, and that the international community bore responsibility for ensuring its enjoyment. It was that principle that underlay the idea of integration and policy coordination in the deliberations of the Second and Third Committees, and within the Secretariat. The concept of sustainable development encompassed observance of fundamental human rights as well as social development, with particular emphasis on issues of gender. It connoted equity within and between generations and social justice. Hence it was closely linked with the responsibilities of States and full and free participation by peoples in political life through democratization.

8. In order to ensure an integrated development of policy, the Department of Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development had incorporated the Division for the Advancement of Women, the Division for Social Policy and Development and would be working closely with the Secretariat units dealing with refugees, drug control and crime prevention.

(Mr. Desai)

9. The World Summit for Social Development would be the essential preoccupation of the Third Committee. The social perspective had often been neglected in the development debate, and it was the task of the Summit to redress that imbalance. Profound political, cultural and economic changes had been brought about by new technologies in the patterns of the production, consumption and distribution of goods and the greater awareness caused by the communications revolution had created a crisis in expectations in many societies. At the same time, social relations had failed to adapt to those economic and political transformations, and deprivation and marginalization were limiting the potential for growth and prosperity.

10. Poverty and lack of employment in an interdependent world was intimately linked with refugees, migration and environmental degradation and a spur to political unrest. They were central social issues that would be dealt with at the World Summit for Social Development. The World Summit would also deal with the impact of ageing populations, the participation of youth, the stabilization of the family and the enhancement of the potential of people with disabilities. Thus, it would take a people-centred view of development.

ORGANIZATION OF WORK

11. The CHAIRMAN drew attention to the recommendations and proposals on the organization of the session (A/48/250) and recalled the statement made by the Secretary-General with regard to the current financial situation, and the introduction of cost-producing measures that would affect conference services.

12. On questions related to the programme budget, he drew attention to rule 153 of the rules of procedure, stating that no resolution involving expenditures should be recommended by a Committee for approval by the General Assembly unless it was accompanied by an estimate of expenditures prepared by the Secretary-General. He also reminded the Committee that the General Assembly had decided to recess its forty-eighth session not later than Tuesday, 21 December 1993 and close on Monday, 19 September 1994.

13. He announced that the meeting would be suspended to enable the Committee to meet informally in order to consider the programme of work.

14. The meeting was suspended at 10.50 a.m. and resumed at 11.40 a.m.

15. The CHAIRMAN said that the suggested time-table in document A/C.3/48/L.1/Add.1 should be respected in so far as possible. In the interest of rationalizing the work of the Committee resolutions involving lengthy negotiations should be drafted by the main sponsors as early as possible, and speakers should place their names on the list early. He proposed that all delegations endeavour to limit their interventions on each item to 15 minutes and to provide the conference officer with 15 copies of any to be distributed to interpreters, precis-writers and DPI staff. He reminded the Committee that in accordance with General Assembly resolution 47/99 of 16 December 1992, paragraph 1, the item on international drug control would be discussed in plenary meetings on 26 and 27 October. If he heard no objections, he would take

(The Chairman)

it that the Committee agreed to dispense with the general discussion on that item, and confine itself to submitting and acting upon draft proposals.

16. It was so agreed.

17. The CHAIRMAN said that, if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Committee agreed to devote the meetings of 2 and 3 November to the general discussion of sub-item (e) of item 108.

18. It was so agreed.

19. The CHAIRMAN said that, if he heard no objection, the meeting of 23 November would be allocated for general discussion on items 114 (b), (c) and 115.

20. It was so agreed.

21. The CHAIRMAN said that he took it that the Committee approved the programme of work for the session contained in document A/C.3/48/L.1 as revised during the informal meeting.

22. It was so decided.

23. The CHAIRMAN said that he also took it that the Committee wished to extend invitations to various special rapporteurs/representatives to present their reports to the Third Committee at the current session.

24. It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 11.50 a.m.